TL2915

LLOYD BENTSEN, TEXAS, CHAIRMAN

SPARK M. MATSUNAGA, HAWAII
DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, NEW YORK
MAX BAUCUS, MONTANA
DAVID L. BOREN, OKLAHOMA
BILL BRADLEY, NEW JERSEY
GEORGE J. MITCHELL, MAINE
DAVID PRYOR, ARKANSAS
DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR., MICHIGAN
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, WEST VIRGINIA
TOM DASCHLE, SOUTH DAKOTA

BOB PACKWOOD, OREGON
BOB DOLE, KANSAS
WILLIAM V. ROTH, JR., DELAWARE
JOHN C. DANFORTH, MISSOURI
JOHN H. CHAFEE, RHODE ISLAND
JOHN HEINZ, PENNSYLVANIA
MALCOLM WALLOP, WYOMING
DAVID DURENBERGER, MINNESOTA
WILLIAM L. ARMSTRONG, COLORADO

WILLIAM J. WILKINS, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
MARY MCAULIFFE, MINORITY CHIEF OF STAFF

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

July 28, 1987

The Honorable George Shultz
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, for some time a number of members of the United States Senate have been concerned about the situation in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, which was invaded and forcibly annexed by Indonesia in 1975. Let us take this opportunity to thank you for raising the issue of alleged human rights violations in East Timor when you met with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar during President Reagan's visit to Bali last May. We applaud your willingness to address these concerns in discussions with a loyal and valuable friend.

We would like to draw your attention to a renewed Indonesian military offensive against Timorese insurgents. In the past, such offensives have been characterized by grave human rights violations against the population of the territory, including summary executions, forced marches, relocation, torture, political imprisonment -- in addition to food shortages and disease. Because of this history, which includes a catastrophic famine in East Timor from 1978-80, we believe that reports of significant new Indonesian military operations in the territory warrant the concern of the United States Congress and the administration.

We believe that at the very least, international humanitarian organizations should have full access to East Timor so as to ensure the maximum degree of relief and protection to the civilian population and political detainees alike. While we understand that certain aspects of the East Timor situation have improved in recent years, we would like to ensure conditions do not deteriorate as a result of an increased level of Indonesian military activity.

In addition, we are concerned about the following issues:

* We have received reports that Indonesia's World Bank-funded population control program in East Timor is coercive in some instances. There have been accounts of involuntary sterilizations in the territory. Given the sharp reduction of East Timor's population over the past eleven years and the fact that the territory was underpopulated prior to the Indonesian invasion, what is the justification for population control programs there? What is being done to assure that the East Timorese are safeguarded from coercion, abuse, or worse?

* We are concerned about the situation of individuals seeking to leave East Timor to join family members in Portugal who have thus far not been allowed to do so. In particular, the case of the only surviving family members of the former head of East Timor's Roman Catholic Church, Mgr. Martinho da Costa Lopes, should be remedied as soon as possible. Mgr. Lopes' niece, Rosa da Costa Lopes, and her children Martinha and Zeca, should be allowed to join their uncle in Portugal. They reside near the hospital Dr. Carvalho in Dili, the capital of East Timor.

* We are also particularly interested in the cases of four East Timorese students in Jakarta who wish to leave Indonesia but have thus far been denied exit visas by the Indonesian authorities. The four -- Antonio Goncalves, Joao Freitas de Camara, Albilio Oliveira Sereno, and Fernando da Silva -- reportedly received repeated death threats after requesting permission to emigrate. We hope you will communicate our concern about these students to the Indonesian authorities.

As some of us have noted in the past, information on conditions in East Timor is limited, owing to Jakarta's policy of restricting access to the territory as well as official controls, and the atmosphere of fear that has confronted many of those who have made visits. We believe that the situation in East Timor can only be clarified if Jakarta were to permit regular missions to the territory by respected international human rights organizations.

We recognize the difficulty in reaching a peaceful and equitable settlement to the conflict in East Timor. We continue to recognize the value of the friendly relationship between the government of Indonesia and the United States based on sound strategic and political considerations. We feel that this

friendship can only be strengthened by permitting unrestricted activity by international humanitarian organizations in East Timor, positive action on the family reunification and emigration cases specified here, and visible progress on resolving the warfare in East Timor.

Sincerely,

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Dave Durenberger

Claiborne Pell

Rudy Boschwitz

Barbara A. Mikulski

Arlen Specter

(Secretary Shultz - East Timor human rights issues)

Paul Simon

Mark O. Hatfield

Carl M. Levin

Nancy Landon Kassebaum

Edward M. Kennedy

Charles E. Grassley

Tom Harkin

Orrin G. Hatch

Bill Bradley

Robert T. Stafford

Spark M. Matsunaga

Richard G. Lugar

George J. Mitchell

John Heinz

Dennis DeConcini

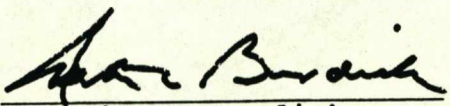
John McCain

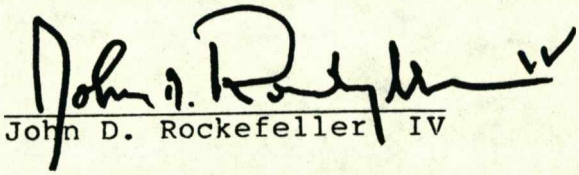
John F. Kerry

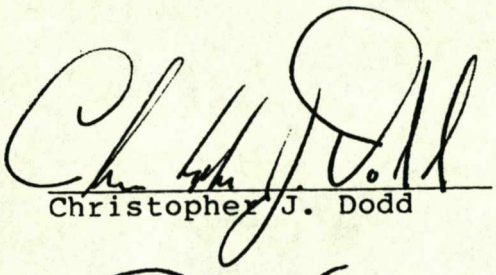
Pete Wilson

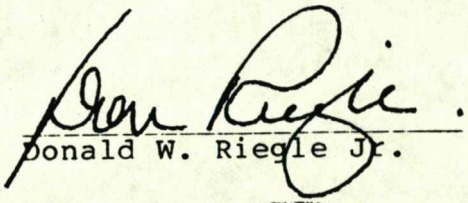
Thomas A. Daschle

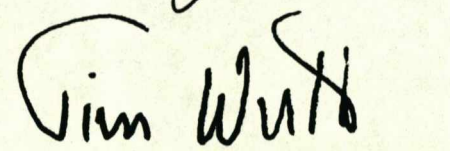
Alan J. Dixon

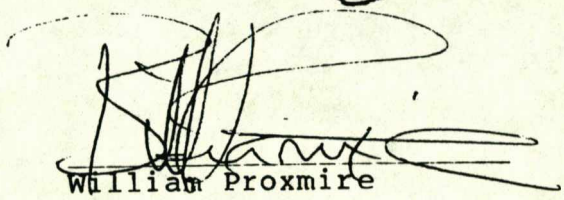

Quentin N. Burdick


John D. Rockefeller IV


Christopher J. Dodd

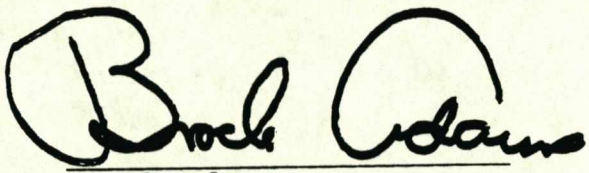

Donald W. Riegle Jr.

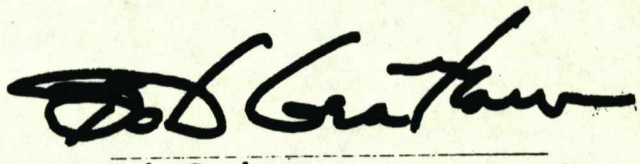

Timothy E. Wirth

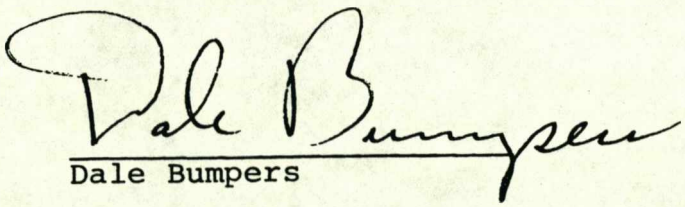

William Proxmire

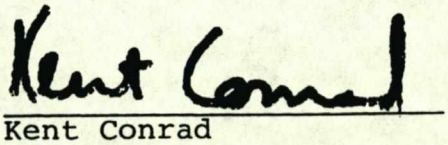
Albert Gore Jr.

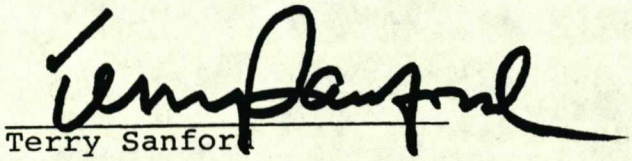
Alan Cranston


Brock Adams


Bob Graham


Dale Bumpers


Kent Conrad


Terry Sanford

John Melcher